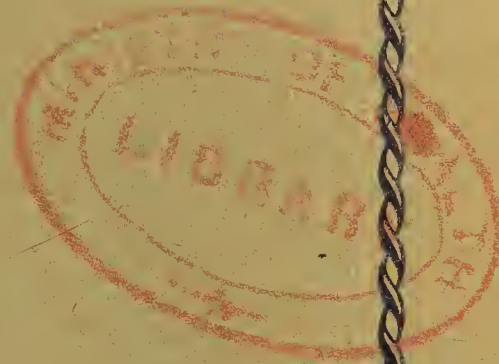




A
REPORT
on the
HEALTH
of
THE URBAN DISTRICT OF HORNCastle
Lincs.
during
1937

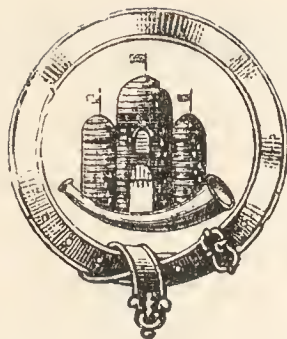
by

GEORGE A. W. NEILL

M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Member Royal Sanitary Institute.

Fellow of the Society of Medical Officers of Health.



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Horncastle Urban District Council.

COUNCIL.

1937 (*Mid-year*).

Chairman:

Mr. G. J. WAYMOUTH, J.P.

Vice-Chairman:

Mr. CHARLES AUCKLAND.

Mr. F. Kirkham.

Mr. J. T. Friskney.

Mr. P. Crowson.

Mr. A. Sutton.

Mr. J. T. Houlden.

Mr. C. F. Kay.

Mr. R. H. Bell.

Mr. G. Harrison, J.P.

Mr. H. Firth.

Mr. J. H. Morris.

COMMITTEES.

Finance and General Purposes.

The whole Council in Committee.

Housing and Sanitary Committee.

Chairman:

Mr. Charles Auckland.

Mr. J. T. Houlden.

Mr. J. H. Morris.

Mr. G. Harrison, J.P.

Mr. A. Sutton.

(The Chairman of the Council is an Ex-officio Member of all Committees.)

OFFICIALS.

Clerk:

RICHARD CHATTERTON (Solicitor)

Medical Officers of Health:

A. C. GREENWOOD, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Part Time).

(Resigned November, 1937)

G. W. H. TOWNSEND, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

(Deputy C.M.O.H., Lindsey County Council).

(Acted November, 1937—March, 1938).

G. A. W. NEILL, M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

(Appointed 1st April, 1938).

Sanitary Inspector and Housing Estates Manager:

F. WEEBER, M.S.I.A., M.Inst. & Cy.E.

(Surveyor).

Inspector of Common Lodging Houses.

F. LUSBY.

DR. A. C. GREENWOOD

Died 6th June, 1938.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS,

The Horncastle Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you a report on the Health of the Urban District of Horncastle for the year ended 31st December, 1937.

This report has been prepared by me at the special direction of the Minister of Health in order to maintain continuity of the Annual Reports of the Medical Officer of Health in accordance with Article 17 (5) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, and Article 14 (3) of the Sanitary Officers Order, 1926.

As I did not become Medical Officer of Health to the Urban District of Horncastle until April, 1938, it is impossible for me to prepare a complete report, nor can I report as Medical Officer on the work of 1937. However, in accordance with the Public Health and other Acts of Parliament certain records must be kept relating to the occurrence of disease and the measures taken to maintain the Health of every District in England. By drawing on these records and on certain figures supplied by the Registrar-General it is possible for me to make a fairly detailed statement regarding the Health of the Urban District of Horncastle. On this account I must stress the fact that the statements made and the opinions expressed in the following report are entirely based on those records to which I fell heir on taking up my duties in this area and, therefore, the responsibility for their accuracy must, perforce, lie upon the compilers of the records in question.

The Report has been prepared, as far as is practicable in the circumstances, in the form laid down by the Ministry of Health in their Circular No. 1650 of October, 1937. The Minister of Health has, however, agreed that the Section of the report which deals with "Sanitary Circumstances of the Area" should be prepared by the Sanitary Inspector.

The general statistics for the year are satisfactory except the birth rate. The figure of 9.21 for the live births is one which would in a larger area give rise to very considerable anxiety. The Death rate is slightly higher than in 1936 but is lower than in any of the three years previous. In this Horncastle is following the general trend of the Country, in that people are living longer. Every fall in death rate means a corresponding increase in the average age at death.

The mortality rates from Cancer and Tuberculosis are both slightly higher than they have been for several previous years. Both of these diseases are relatively slow in their progress therefore it is to be expected that several years of remarkably low death rate should be eventually followed by an increase.

From examination of previous reports it would appear that there was little alteration during 1937, of the Sanitary circumstances of the area. The two analyses of the water supply are a matter of great satisfaction while the small extension of the sewers is also worthy of note.

In the section on Housing it will be seen that Horncastle is keeping pace with other districts in that eight new houses were provided by the Local Authority while as a result of the administration of the Housing Act of 1936 nine cases of overcrowding were relieved.

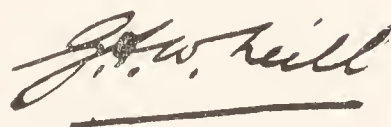
In regard to the control of foodstuffs it is a matter of satisfaction to be able to show that those traders who are responsible for the supply and sale of food are co-operating to provide the town with clean milk and food.

With regard to Infectious Diseases, 1937 will be remembered for the severe Diphtheria Epidemic which was experienced in the latter end of the year. Apart from this there was little else of note as far as infectious disease is concerned. That only one new case of Tuberculosis was notified is a matter of great satisfaction.

In presenting this report I wish to thank those who have so willingly assisted me in obtaining the information which I required, Mr. Weeber, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, Nurse Richardson, the Lindsey County Health Visitor, and the Medical Practitioners in the Urban District. I should also like to congratulate the Clerk to the Council on the able manner in which he has handled the correspondence with the Ministry of Health relative to the Report.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "J. H. W. Keill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

25th August, 1938.
Health Office,
Horncastle,
Lincs.

M.D., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health,
Horncastle Urban District.



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SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions
of
The Urban District.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

SITUATION. Latitude 53° 12' 30"
Longitude 0° 6' 30"

ELEVATION. Between 50 feet and 120 feet above Sea Level.

AREA OF URBAN DISTRICT. 1,414 acres.

POPULATION. 1931 Census, 3,461.

Mid-1937 (Estimated), 3,475. (Figure supplied by Registrar-General for calculation of Birth, Mortality and Death rates.)

DENSITY OF POPULATION: 2.4 persons per acre.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES: 1,103 (According to rate books for 1937.)

SUM REPRESENTED BY 1d. RATE: £58 19s. 4d.

RATEABLE VALUE OF URBAN DISTRICT: £15,153 0 0.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

By nature of its situation Horncastle, as a Market Town, in the centre of a large Agricultural district, does not suffer from the extremes of prosperity and depression as do towns in the more industrial areas. The chief occupations in the town being retail trades and several small businesses directly connected with the agricultural pursuits of the surrounding country. There is some seasonal fluctuation of Unemployment but for the past few years the average figure of totally unemployed has remained steady.

Figures showing the relationship between deaths and occupations are not available for 1937.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1937.

LIVE BIRTHS.

						Males.	Females.	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	14	18	32
Illegitimate	...	...	.	...	...	—	—	—
								32

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population:—9.21.

STILL BIRTHS.

							Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
									1
									—
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still Births) ...									30.3
Total Birth Rate (Live and Still) per 1,000 population ...									9.62

DEATHS.

Males.	Females.	Total.
29	28	57
(Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population:—16.43.)		
DEATH RATE PER 1,000 ESTIMATED POPULATION		
(Corrected Death Rate)		
11.17		

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Number of Women dying as a result of Childbirth.

(Headings No. 29 and No. 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List)

							Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total births.
No. 29.	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	Nil	0.00
No. 30.	Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	...	...	Nil	0.00
Total							Nil	0.00

Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 total births (Live and Still):—
0.00

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

(There was one death recorded of an infant under one year of age.)

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	31.25
Legitimate infants per 1,000 Legitimate births	...	...	...	...	...	...	31.25
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 Illegitimate births	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.00

OTHER STATISTICS.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
„ „ Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

LOCAL STATISTICS.

The Estimated Population of 3,475 shows little variation since the Census of 1931. This figure is arrived at by the Registrar-General by taking into account the birth rate and death rates each year since the Census; in addition any trade developments are also considered through figures available from unemployment returns. In addition to this a factor is applied to death rates in various parts of the country known as the Comparability factor, to take into account the fact that there are certain places where people of more or less advanced age go to spend their retirement. This is particularly true of the towns. This Factor therefore, when applied to the Crude Death Rate of any given district, reduces it to a figure that is readily comparable with other parts of the country.

In Table I. a comparison is shown of the vital statistics of Horncastle for the past five years.

The estimated population has remained relatively steady.

The birth rate, after remaining steady also until 1937, has shown a marked fall to the present low level of 9.21 per thousand. A fall such as this can not but be looked upon as unsatisfactory.

The death rate is the lowest but one of the five years shown but unfortunately the fall in this is totally insufficient to balance the lowered birth rate if the population of the Urban District is to be maintained.

It is extremely unfortunate that it has not been possible to obtain the Infantile Mortality figures and Maternal Mortality figures for the previous years.

Table II shows a comparison between the Urban District and England and Wales and also with the 125 County Boroughs and Great Towns. The comparison between these latter, and between the Administrative County of London, in that it gives the contrast between a Rural Market Town and the great Centres of Industry, is of great value. The comparison with the 148 smaller towns is also a matter of interest as in these conditions are more likely to approximate to those in Horncastle.

A general survey of these figures shows that, as emphasised before, the birth rate of the Urban District is this year much lower than the average for the country. Also the death rate is definitely below that of the country as a whole and even that of the small towns.

When it comes to comparisons in the case of the infectious diseases and individual causes of death, the small population of Horncastle is such that one death from or one notification of an infectious disease produces a very appreciable "Rate per 1,000 of population."

In examining the Comparisons shown in this table the most satisfactory feature of all is perhaps the figures for Maternal and Infantile Mortality. It has been said that the Infantile Mortality figure is the best index of prosperity of a district and of Social conditions. If this is so, Horncastle is shown to be in a most favourable position.

In Table III is shown a detailed analysis of the causes of all deaths of males and females in the Urban District throughout the year.

If the defined causes of death responsible for four or more deaths be examined they are found to be as follows:

Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

It is of interest to note that of the 57 deaths occurring in the Urban District more than half of these, 28, are caused by Heart Disease and Cancer.

With regard to Heart Disease, the 16 deaths represent a mortality rate per 1,000 living of 4.60. With the exception of 1935 (when the Mortality rate from Heart Disease was 5.77) this figure represents the highest rate during the five years since 1932. The figures for the period are as follows:

HEART DISEASE.									
Year	...	...	...	...	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
No. of deaths	...	...	...	...	13	13	20	12	16
Rate per Thousand	...	...	...	...	3.72	3.73	5.77	3.45	4.60

Cancer, which yields pride of place as the most frequent cause of death only to heart disease, by causing 12 deaths attains its highest mortality figure, of 3.45 per 1,000, since 1925, when a figure of 4.23 was recorded. The figures for the past five years are as follows:

CANCER.									
Year	...	...	...	...	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
No. of Deaths	...	...	...	...	12	11	7	6	12
Rate per 1,000 Pop.	...	...	...	...	3.43	3.16	2.88	1.7	3.45

The only other defined cause to be responsible for four or more deaths was Tuberculosis of the respiratory system. All the victims were of the Male sex. This again shows an increase over the three previous years as shown below, the mortality rate per 1,000 living being 1.18.

TUBERCULOSIS.									
Year	...	...	...	...	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
No. of Deaths	...	...	...	...	5	2	1	2	4
Rate per 1,000 Pop.	...	...	...	...	1.43	0.57	0.28	0.60	1.18

In considering these figures and tables it is worthy of notice that the principal causes of death in Horncastle are the disease of middle and old age, and in view of this it is somewhat remarkable that there was no death from Pneumonia and only two from Bronchitis. There is no reason, such as exceptional climatic conditions during 1937 to account for this.

TABLE I.
VITAL STATISTICS OF HORNCASTLE FOR PAST 5 YEARS.

Year	Estimated Population	Live Births		Deaths			Maternal Deaths	Infantile Mortality Figure.
		Number	Rate	Number	Crude Rate	Adjusted Rate		
1933	3491	49	14.0	59	16.90	*	*	*
1934	3477	51	14.8	59	16.96	11.53	*	*
1935	3461	51	14.73	58	16.76	11.39	*	*
1936	3486	51	13.76	55	15.77	10.75	*	*
1937	3475	32	9.21	57	16.43	11.17	0	31.25

* Figures not available.

NOTE.—All rates per 1,000 estimated population.

Infantile Mortality figure per 1,000 Live Births.

TABLE III.

Showing causes of Death as given in the Registrar-General's Short List.

Short List				
No.	Cause of Death.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1	Typhoid and Para-typhoid fevers...	—	—	—
2	Measles	—	—	—
3	Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
4	Whooping Cough	—	—	—
5	Diphtheria	1	—	1
6	Influenza	3	—	3
7	Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—
8	Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—
9	Tuberculosis of Respiratory system	4	—	4
10	Other Tuberculosis	—	—	—
11	Syphilis	—	—	—
12	General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis	—	—	—
13	Cancer	7	5	12
14	Diabetes	—	1	1
15	Cerebral Hæmorrhage	—	1	1
16	Heart Disease	7	9	16
17	Aneurysm	—	—	—
18	Other Circulatory Diseases	—	1	—
19	Bronchitis	—	2	2
20	Pneumonia (all forms)	—	—	—
21	Other Respiratory Diseases	—	—	—
22	Peptic Ulcer	—	—	—
23	Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	—	—	—
24	Appendicitis	—	—	—
25	Cirrhosis of Liver	—	—	—
26	Other Liver Diseases	—	—	—
27	Other Digestive Diseases	2	1	3
28	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	—	1	1
29	Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—
30	Other Puerperal Diseases	—	—	—
31	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, etc.	1	1	2
32	Senility	1	1	2
33	Suicide	—	1	1
34	Other Violence	1	—	1
35	Other Defined Causes	2	4	6
36	Causes Ill-defined or Unknown			
Total Deaths, All Causes		29	28	57

TABLE II.

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death-rates, and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1937.

England and Wales, London, 125 Great Towns and 148 Smaller Towns compared with Horncastle.

(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns)

	England and Wales	125 County Boro's and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County	Horncastle Urban District
	Rates per 1,000 Population.				
Births:—					
Live	14. 9	14. 9	15. 3	13. 3	9.21
Still	0.60	0.67	0.64	0.54	0.29
Deaths:—					
All Causes ..	12. 4	12. 5	11. 9	12. 3	11.17
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ..	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Smallpox ..	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ..	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.00
Scarlet Fever ..	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Whooping Cough ..	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.06	0.00
Diphtheria ..	0.07	0.08	0.05	0.05	0.29
Influenza ..	0.45	0.39	0.42	0.38	0.87
Violence ..	0.54	0.45	0.42	0.51	0.58
Notifications:—					
Smallpox ..	0.00	—	0.00	—	—
Scarlet Fever ..	2.33	2.56	2.42	2.09	0.87
Diphtheria ..	1.49	1.81	1.38	1.93	9.21
Enteric Fever ..	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.05	0.00
Erysipelas ..	0.37	0.43	0.34	0.44	0.29
Pneumonia ..	1.36	1.58	1.20	1.18	2.03
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births.				
Deaths under 1 year of age	58	62	55	60	31.25
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	5. 8	7. 9	3.2	12. 0	—
Maternal Mortality:—					
Puerperal Sepsis ..	0.97	Not available			Nil
Others ..	2.26				
Total ..	3.23				
	Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e. Live and Still)				
Maternal Mortality:—					
Puerperal Sepsis ..	0.94	Not available			Nil
Others ..	2.17				
Total ..	3.11				
Notifications:—					
Puerperal Fever	13.93	17.59	11.52	4.15	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia				14.84	

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services
in
The Urban District.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE URBAN DISTRICT.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

The Horncastle District Nursing Association employs two certified Midwives who are also employed by the County Council under the Midwives Act 1936. They provide an efficient service not only for Horncastle but also for several surrounding Parishes.

In addition the County Council provides an infectious diseases nurse to attend to cases of Measles, etc., in the Home when nursing becomes necessary.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The Lindsey County Council Laboratory at Lincoln provides a service whereby Specimens of Blood, Sputum, Water, Milk, Sewage and Foodstuffs and Swabs from the throat and nose may be examined. The service so provided is most excellent but suffers from the disadvantage of being twenty miles from the Urban District. In ordinary circumstances this distance causes little inconvenience but, it is understood that, during the Diphtheria Epidemic occasions arose when it would have been of the greatest value had a Laboratory been situated within the boundaries of Horncastle.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) Accident and General.

The British Red Cross Society maintains a Motor Ambulance at Mr. Friskney's Garage in West Street. This is partly supported by voluntary subscriptions.

(b) Infectious Diseases.

There is no infectious disease ambulance in the Urban District. It is understood that during the epidemic of Diphtheria entire dependence was placed upon those hospitals accepting the cases to provide ambulance facilities. This was satisfactory when those hospitals which maintain an ambulance were utilized, but when accommodation was secured at hospitals where an ambulance is not maintained resort was made to private or hackney vehicles. This is a most deplorable state of affairs as such treatment must be extremely prejudicial to sufferers from Diphtheria.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

The Lindsey County Council maintains a building, Rolleston House, Bridge Street, at which the County Council's clinics, it being the Education Authority, the Tuberculosis Authority and the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority, are held. The work of these Clinics is done by the Assistant County Medical Officers.

The Clinics held are as follows:

Clinic.	Day and time.
Dental	By arrangement.
Maternity and Child Welfare	Tuesdays, 2 p.m.
Ophthalmic	By arrangement.
School Clinic (Minor Ailment)	Thursdays, 10 a.m.
Tuberculosis	Thursdays, 10 a.m.

The County Council's scheme makes available for persons resident in Horncastle Urban District the following Centres and Clinics.

Orthopædic: At Spilsby.

Rheumatic and Heart Diseases: At Gainsborough.

Venereal Diseases: At Beaumont Free, Lincoln.

Through these Clinics the following services are available:

DENTAL TREATMENT.

School Children, the pre-school child and expectant mothers are examined and, where necessary, treated. The County Council provides dentures to those mothers who are unable to afford them when required.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Expectant mothers may be examined by the County Maternity and Child Welfare Officers and advised on the Hygiene of Pregnancy, while in this way abnormal cases where difficulties might arise can be treated sufficiently early to avoid risk at confinement.

The County Council provides institutional treatment for abnormal or difficult cases either in its Maternity Homes at Scunthorpe or Cleethorpes or in other institutions at Lincoln or Louth. Admissions are arranged by the County Medical Officer.

Parents are encouraged to bring their children to the infant welfare centre, where they may be examined periodically by a specially qualified Child Welfare Officer. Advice is given on abnormalities of Nutrition and Infant Hygiene whilst minor ailments are treated. (These arrangements are available for children up till 5 years of age or until they commence school.)

Dried Milk may be obtained at the Centre at wholesale prices and in necessitous cases below cost.

In connection with maternity and child welfare work in Horncastle the excellent work of the Ladies' Voluntary Committee is worthy of note. These Ladies attend at the Centre at each session and provide tea for the mothers who come to the Clinic either with their children or for attention themselves. In addition they place themselves at the disposal of the Medical Officer in charge and have proved themselves to be of the greatest assistance.

DEFECTS REQUIRING SPECIALIST TREATMENT.

Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids, Deformities, Defective Vision, Squint and Heart Disease when they occur in children under School Age are treated through the County Scheme as in the case of School children.

HOME HELPS.

Home Helps are provided by the County Council, their duty being to assist in large families where the mother is incapacitated by pregnancy and where poverty precludes the obtaining of help in the usual way.

HEALTH VISITORS AND VISITATION IN THE HOME.

The County Council employs a Health Visitor in the Urban District who deals very efficiently with those cases where visitation in the home is necessary.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE TREATMENT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

The Lindsey County Council Education Committee arranges the Medical Inspection of Schoolchildren at the Schools in the Urban District and also provides the Minor Ailment Clinic. In addition clinics for the correction of Dental and Visual defects are held in Horncastle from time to time. While special arrangements are made in the case of any child who requires Artificial Sunlight, Orthopædic treatment, Ear, Nose and Throat Treatment, special Investigation of Rheumatic Disease or Open Air School treatment, that the child may travel to such other centre where these are conveniently available.

THE TUBERCULOSIS CLINIC AND DISPENSARY.

This provides facilities for the diagnosis of Tuberculosis, medical practitioners being invited to take advantage of consultations with the Assistant County Tuberculosis Officers. Where necessary it is possible through the Clinic to arrange X-ray examinations and other special investigations. In those cases where a practitioner desires a consultation but where the patient is not well enough to attend the Clinic the consultation can be arranged in the patient's home.

In addition the dispensary provides a means whereby sufferers from old standing tubercular lesions can receive continuous supervision and where their financial position renders difficult the provision of extra nourishment this can be readily provided.

HOSPITALS.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE HOSPITALS.

These are provided adequately by the Lindsey County Council.

GENERAL VOLUNTARY HOSPITALS.

The Horncastle and District War Memorial Hospital serves the Urban District admirably.

In the course of the year 7 beds and 2 cots were available. There were 85 admissions.

The Hospital, which during 1937 has undergone considerable reconstruction, is equipped to deal with all kinds of Medical and Surgical emergencies, including X-ray examinations.

The Lincoln County Hospital also collects in the Urban District and in certain cases provides Medical and Surgical treatment for persons residing in Horncastle.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITALS.

No Infectious Diseases Hospital exists within the Urban District, nor is there any permanent arrangement with any other Authority for the Treatment or Isolation of persons suffering from infectious diseases other than Small-pox. The procedure adopted at present being, when a case of Infectious Disease requiring removal occurs, the Clerk to the Council or the Medical Officer of Health establishes telephonic communication with those authorities who maintain Isolation Hospitals within reasonable distance of Horncastle, and endeavours to obtain accommodation. When accommodation is obtained the best possible financial arrangement is made, the cost of treatment varying according to the Hospital concerned. This is, naturally, a most unsatisfactory state of affairs, both from the Clinical and administrative standpoints and its disadvantages were demonstrated to the full during the Diphtheria epidemic which occurred in the latter part of the year.

The situation is one which gives rise to the greatest anxiety to those responsible for the control and treatment of Infectious diseases within the boundaries of the Urban District. In the event of any generalised epidemic in this and those neighbouring districts, whose isolation hospitals are used from time to time, it must be borne in mind that the residents of those districts have prior claim on the accommodation of the hospital they maintain. The situation can then be visualized when no accommodation would be available for cases of infectious diseases occurring in Horncastle.

In this connection it is of interest to record that in the course of the year cases of infectious disease from Horncastle were treated in four different Isolation Hospitals.

	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.
Boston Isolation Hospital	—	11
Grimsby Corporation Hospital, Scartho ...	1	12
North East Lindsey Joint Hospital, Osgodby	2	—
Skegness Isolation Hospital	—	9

In view of this it is to be hoped that negotiations will be opened in the near future to obtain a permanent arrangement with a not too distant Isolation Hospital for the treatment of any cases of infecticus disease which may occur in Horncastle.

TUBERCULOSIS HOSPITALS.

Sanatorium treatment is arranged for those requiring it through the Lindsey County Council either at Branston Hall Sanatorium or at other institutions such as Kelling Sanatorium, in Norfolk, or at Harlow Wood in Staffordshire for Orthopædic Cases.

Hospital treatment is also provided by the County Council either at its own institutions at Brumby or Louth or by arrangement with other authorities.

MATERNITY HOSPITAL TREATMENT.

As previously mentioned, this is arranged by the Lindsey County Council, who is the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority for the Area. Acute emergencies could also be dealt with in the Horncastle and District War Memorial Hospital.

SECTIONS C, D and E.

**Sanitary Circumstances
of
The Urban District.**

(These sections include the report furnished by the
Sanitary Inspector under The Sanitary Officers (Outside
London) Order 1935, Art. 27 (18))

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

F. Weeber, M.S.I.A., M.Inst. M. & Cy.E., Sanitary Inspector.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Horncastle is extremely fortunate in its water supply. The supply is provided by a private company, who spare no effort to maintain a pure and plentiful supply throughout their area.

The source of supply is at Cawkwell, about seven miles from the Urban District in a northerly direction. It consists of a number of shallow wells at the base of an outcrop in the Chalk of the Wolds. The water is collected from these wells, which are extremely well constructed of rendered brickwork, and is led to a series of Sand filters and from thence to a storage reservoir. As this is at an elevation of more than 200 feet above the town the water is at all times supplied at ample pressure.

Bacteriological Examinations of the water have been carried out at Six monthly intervals. Samples being taken from the Wells, the filter bed as from taps in houses supplied. The Examinations have been carried out by The Counties Public Health Laboratories, 91, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.4.

The Results may be summarised as follows:

Sample I. May, 1937. Taken from Tap in Horncastle.

Number of colonies per c.c. of water growing on Agar at 20 deg. C.	
in 3 days	16
Number of colonies per c.c. of water growing on Agar at 37 deg. C.	
in 48 hours	2
Smallest quantity containing B. Coli	Absent in 100 c.c.
Smallest quantity containing B. Welchii	Absent in 100 c.c.

The report states that "This is clear and bright water of a high bacterial purity. It is a pure and wholesome water suitable for domestic purposes.

Sample II. October 1937. Taken from Tap in Horncastle.

Number of colonies per c.c. of water growing on Agar at 20 deg. C.	
in 3 days	32
Number of colonies per c.c. of water growing on Agar at 37 deg.	
in 48 hours	6
Smallest quantity containing B. Coli	Absent in 100 c.c.
Smallest quantity containing B. Welchii	Absent in 100 c.c.

degree of bacterial purity. It is a pure and wholesome water suitable for

The report states that "This is a clear and bright water of a high drinking and domestic purposes.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

A reasonably efficient Sewage disposal works situated about a quarter of a mile from the town deals with the inflow from the sewers. The system in operation is known as the Ives Patent, which consists of a conical settling tank by means of which the sludge settles out from the more liquid portions of the sewage, following screening and precipitation with "alumino-ferric." The effluent from the settling tank undergoes a form of land treatment and the final effluent, which is apparently fairly pure is discharged into the Bain.

240 yards of New Sewer (9") have been laid to a new private enterprise housing area.

In addition to the sewage system a number of Cess-pools still exist within the Urban District. Efforts are constantly being made to reduce their number. The day when the last cess-pool disappears is one to be looked forward to with joyful anticipation.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

There are two small streams flowing through the town, which join at its Western boundary. There is no serious pollution, but there is a certain amount of trouble by people using the rivers as a dump for their refuse, and during the year notices have been erected, prohibiting the practice.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There have not been any conversions during the past year, but the small number of privy vaults and pail closets left in the town are mainly on the outskirts, which have not been sewered. The present position is that there are 961 Water Closets, 39 Privy Vaults and 43 Pail Closets in the area.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Public Cleansing is undertaken by the Council by direct labour. One covered cart is employed whole time and one uncovered cart part time. The whole of the town is cleared once a fortnight, but in the centre and more congested areas, and in the hot months of the summer a weekly collection is undertaken. The refuse is tipped into a disused brick pit, about which complaints have been received, and the whole matter of cleansing is under the consideration of the Sanitary Committee.

TABLE IV.
SUMMARY OF TOTAL INSPECTIONS, &c., BY THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR.

				Inspections	Informal	Statutory	
				made.	Notices	Notices	Abated
					Issued.	Issued.	
Unsound Food	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Nuisances	...	...	...	12	6	2	8
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	102	—	—	—
Slaughterhouses and Meat	...	...	...	28	2	—	2
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	4	1	—	—
Bakehouses	...	...	...	13	2	—	2
Cowsheds	...	...	...	25	2	—	2
Dairies	...	...	...	3	—	—	—
Shops Act	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Drains	...	...	...	10	5	—	5
Movable Dwelling Vans, &c.	...	...	...	2	2	—	2
Rats and Mice order	...	...	...	8	2	—	2
Factories	...	...	...	7	—	—	—
Workshops	...	...	...	10	—	—	—
				234	22	2	24

Lodging Houses 52 — — —
(separate Inspector, Mr. F. Lusby).

SHOPS ACT.

No action has been necessary or taken in regard to the Shops Act.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

The town, not being a factory area, has not necessitated any action under this head.

SWIMMING BATHS.

There is a small open-air bath owned and maintained by the Council and this is regularly cleansed, and the purity of the water is assisted by dosage with chloride of lime and soda.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No houses have been found infested during the year.

SCHOOL HYGIENE.

Conditions are very unsatisfactory at the two Elementary Schools in the district. This fact is however thoroughly understood by the Lindsey County Council Education Committee who are at present negotiating for the erection of a new Elementary School in the town. As this will be an entirely new building there is every reason to believe that the present hygienic defects in the elementary schools will be remedied at an early date.

As far as is possible to trace from the records available no certificate for the school closure was issued during 1937. During the Diphtheria epidemic every effort was strained to keep the schools open in order that the association of children of different families might take place under control as far as possible.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

(Included in Report under Factory and Workshops Act 1901).

There are 7 factories and 10 workshops in the Urban District. These are well maintained, and no defect was found in either a factory or workshop in 1937.

The results of inspection are set out below in Tables V and VI.

TABLE V.
INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.
(Including those made by Sanitary Inspector)

Premises					Number of		
					Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(1)					(2)	(3)	(4)
Factories	...	...	...	...	7	—	—
Workshops	..	...	...	...	10	—	—
Workplaces	...	...	...	...	Nil	—	—
Total					17	—	—

TABLE VI.
DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND
WORKPLACES.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect of proceed- ings were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remed'd (3)	Referred to H.M. Ins'ector (4)	
Nuisances under Public Health Acts :				
Want of Cleanliness	Nil			
Want of Ventilation	Nil			
Overcrowding	Nil			
Want of drainage of floors	Nil			
Other Nuisances	Nil			
Sanitary Accommodation :				
Insufficient	Nil			
Unsuitable	Nil			
Not Separate for sexes	Nil			
Offences under the Factory and Work- shop Acts :				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse	Nil			
Other Offences	Nil			
Total	Nil			

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

Total No. of New Houses erected during the year	...	...	...	23
1. By the Local Authority	...	...	...	8
2. By other Local Authorities	...	...	...	—
3. By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	15
1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year				
(1.) (a) Total No. of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	...	...	...	6
(b) No. of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	6
(2.) (a) No of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925.	...	...	...	Nil
(b) No of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	Nil
(3) No. of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	Nil
(4.) No. of dwelling houses (exclusive of these referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	2
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices	...	...	...	2
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year				
(a) Proceeding under Sections 9, 10 and 36 of the Housing Act 1936				
(1) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	Nil
(2) No. of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices.				
(a) By owner	...	...	...	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.				
(1) No of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied				Nil
(2) No. of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:				
(a) By owner	...	...	...	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	Nil

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.		
(1)	No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(2)	No. of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.	Nil
(3)	No. of dwelling houses subject to undertakings ...	Nil
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of Housing Act, 1936		
(1)	No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2)	No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ...	Nil

4 Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding.

(a)	(1)	No. of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	12
	(2)	No. of families dwelling therein	12
	(3)	No. of persons dwelling therein	81
(b)		No. of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	Nil
(c)	(1)	No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	9
	(2)	No. of persons concerned in such cases	69
(d)		No. of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved	Nil

SECTION E.

CONTROL AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

The Cowsheds in the district have been visited periodically, all those retailing milk, 3 times during the year. The grooming of the cows and the general cleanliness has been improved. There were only two minor contraventions of the Byelaws, which have been remedied.

MEAT.

All the Slaughterhouses have been visited at least 4 times in the year and a certain number of carcasses inspected and in no case in which inspection has taken place, has it been necessary to take any action.

TABLE VII.
CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle exc'ding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
No. killed.	431	10	17	1618	1406
No. Inspected.	42	2	2	168	102
All diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcasses condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
% of the no. inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Tuberculosis Only.					
Whole carcasses condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
% of the no. inspected affected with tuberculosis.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

SECTION F.

**Prevalence of and Control over Infectious
and other Diseases,**

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

TYPHOID AND PARATYPHOID FEVERS.

There was no notification of Enteric Fevers during the year. The last notification of these diseases was in 1928.

SCARLET FEVER.

There were three cases of Scarlet Fever notified during the year. All three were removed to Hospital, and all recovered.

DIPHTHERIA.

The year of 1937 will remain in the memory of Horncastle as the year of the Diphtheria Epidemic. Until December 31st 32 notifications of this disease were received and 32 cases and one healthy "carrier" were treated in hospital. There was one case where doubt existed as to whether or not a carrier condition was present and this was treated at home. The first case was notified on the 25th September and was followed at intervals by others until the end of the year. Vigorous steps were taken to gain control of the epidemic which eventually petered out early in 1938. Even the waters of the Bain were examined for the presence of the *Corneybacterium diphtheriae*, with a negative result. The County Council's School nurses did yeoman service in taking swabs of contacts in the schools and the Medical Practitioners in the town worked unceasingly to provide immunisation for those who desired it. It may be said that it was largely due to these efforts that the outbreak remained so small and circumscribed, as it did.

Unfortunately there is no record existent of the bacteriological type of *C. diphtheria* occurring in the town during the epidemic, therefore it is difficult to draw any conclusion as to the relationship between "type" and severity in this area. It would appear that the disease itself was fairly mild in character as there was only one death recorded from the disease (giving a case mortality rate of 3.12%), and this despite the fact that the patients had to travel considerable distances to hospital often in totally unsuitable conveyances.

One fortunate feature has arisen from the diphtheria epidemic and that is the large number of immunisations against the disease which have been carried out. Had this been done a year previously it is possible that the figures given in this report would have differed considerably. Had not the immunisations been done when they were it is almost certain that the notifications would have been received in greater numbers.

Since the epidemic immunisation against Diphtheria is available to all children in Horncastle free of charge, it is utterly unthinkable that there exist parents, who through foolish prejudice, would deny their children protection against a disease which accounts annually for the lives of as many children as childbirth does for the lives of women. The more so when figures, not only in Britain but the world over, prove time and time again the efficacy of the simple injection which provides safety and peace of mind in the presence of Diphtheria.

PNEUMONIA.

Seven notifications of this disease were received, all of them in the early part of the year. As most of them were notified as Broncho-pneumonia it would appear that the disease was associated with the widespread Influenza epidemic which occurred about that time. Although the Registrar-General's returns did not show any death from pneumonia it is probable that some degree of it was present in the cases of the three deaths from Influenza.

ERYSIPELAS.

One notification of this disease was received.

The Notifications, treatment and deaths from Infectious disease may be summarised as follows:

TABLE VIII.

Disease	Total Notifications	Treated in Hospital	Total Deaths
Small pox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	3	3	Nil
Diphtheria	32	32	1
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid ..	—	—	—
Pneumonia	7	—	Nil
Puerperal	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	1
Diphtheria Carriers	2	1	—

Total Notifications, 45. Total deaths from Infectious Diseases, 1.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Examination of available records for 1937 fails to reveal any mention of prevalence of non-notifiable disease in the Urban District. The fact that there were three deaths from Influenza suggests that Horncastle did not emerge unscathed from the epidemic of this disease, which swept the North of England in the early months of the year.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No action was taken under section 176 of the Public Health Act 1936. Infants suffering from Ophthalmia Neonatorum are treated by the private medical practitioner, for whose assistance Nurses are provided by the Lindsey County Council.

TUBERCULOSIS.

There was only one fresh case of Tuberculosis notified in the Urban District during 1937.

There were four deaths returned as occurring from the disease.

These figures are shown in tabular form (As required by the Minister of Health below).

TABLE IX.
TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1937.

Age Periods Years.	New Cases.				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-25	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
25-35	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
35-45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	—

CASES ON REGISTER.

At the 1st of January, 1937, there were on the Register:—

			Males.	Females.	Total.
Pulmonary	...	...	21	27	48
Non-pulmonary	...		2	13	15
Total			23	40	63

On the 31st December there were:—

			Males.	Females.	Total.
Pulmonary	...	...	21	26	47
Non-pulmonary	...		2	13	15
Totals			23	39	62

The changes were accounted for by

One notification.

One Death.

One Transfer to another district.

No action was taken nor was any necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations of 1925 or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act 1936.

